Group Art Unit: 1655

Attorney

Docket: 00/21400

#141C 18 1131103



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND

OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND
ASSEMBLIES THEREOF USEFUL
IN THE DETECTION OF THE
PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF
TARGET NUCLEIC ACID
SEQUENCES IN A SAMPLE

Examiner: Jeffrey Norman Fredman

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231 Box AF

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

This is in response to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Action mailed July 23, 2002, which response is being made on or before January 23, 2003, for which a three-months extension fee is due and is being submitted herewith. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claim 87 without prejudice as follows:

- 87. (Amended) A method of detecting a presence or an absence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide system under hybridization conditions so as to form a reaction mixture, said